

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

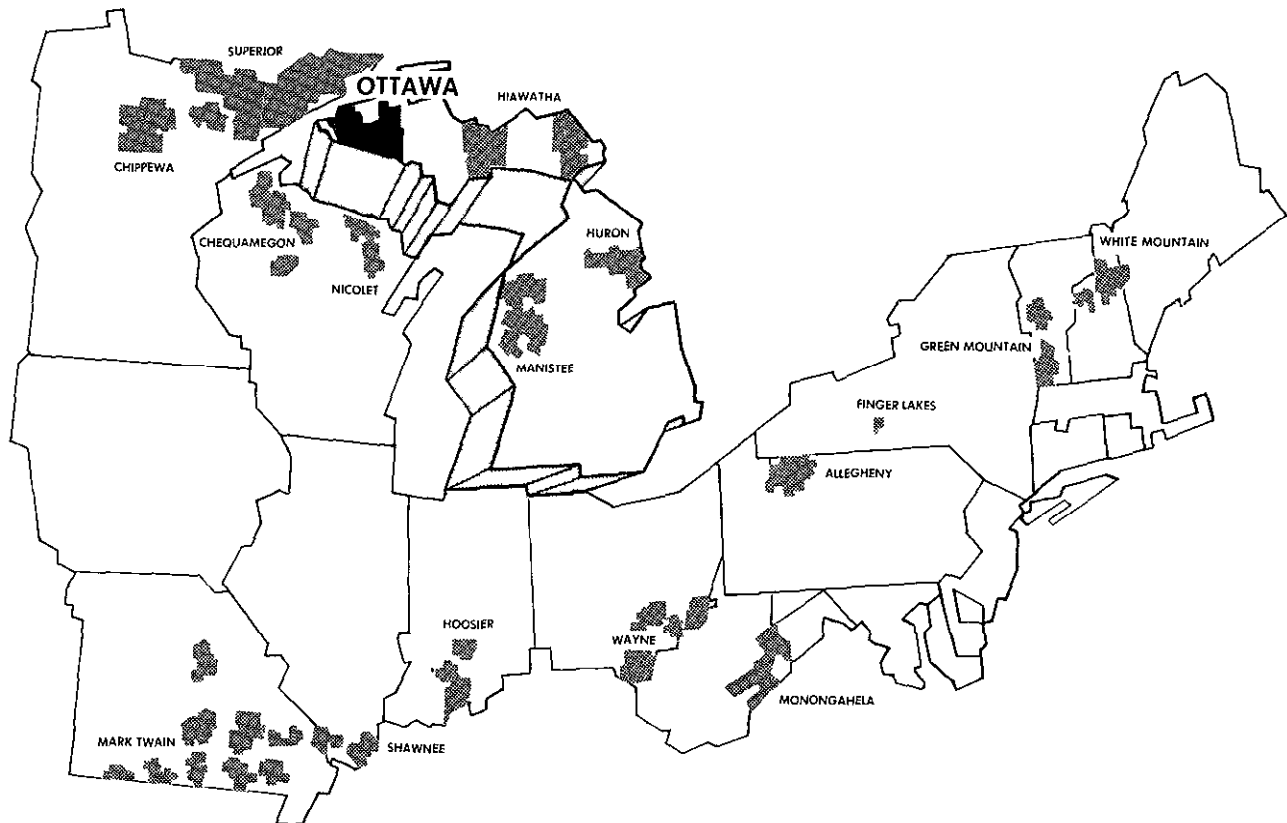
Eastern  
Region



1986

# Land and Resource Management Plan

## OTTAWA NATIONAL FOREST



# Preface

This Land and Resource Management Plan for the Ottawa National Forest was prepared utilizing an integrated resource management approach. The purpose of the Forest Plan is to provide direction for multiple use management and the sustained yield of goods and services from National Forest System lands in an environmentally sound manner. This plan will guide all resource management activities for the next 10 years at which time it will be revised. The Plan will be revised at that time or earlier if the Forest Supervisor determines that planning area conditions have changed significantly.

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## Legislative Background

Preparation of the Forest Plan is required by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act (RPA), as amended by the National Forest Management Act (NFMA). Assessment of its environmental impacts is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the implementing regulations of NFMA, 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 219.

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## Relationship to Other Planning Levels

### National RPA Program

Development of a Forest Plan occurs within the framework of regional and national planning. The Resources Planning Act Program, developed every five years, recommends a level of future outputs and associated costs for all Forest Service programs. The Recommended Program is developed by comparing land and resource capabilities determined at the local level to national needs as determined by the RPA Assessment.

### Regional Guide

The Regional Guide links the RPA Assessment and Recommended Program with National Forest Planning. It plays the dual role of providing input to development of RPA programs and providing direction for the development of Forest Plans. The Regional Guide displays the Regional RPA Program and sets tentative resource targets for the National Forests. Forest Plans then blend national and regional demands with local Forest capabilities and needs.

Environmental Impact Statement	<p>This Forest Plan is a companion document to the Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) and the Record of Decision (ROD). The Final EIS has been prepared according to the Council on Environmental Quality rules implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).</p> <p>The Forest Plan is the preferred alternative and is based on the various considerations which have been addressed in the accompanying Final EIS.</p> <p>The Final EIS describes the range of alternatives considered and discloses their significant environmental effects. Each of the alternatives could have been the basis of a Forest Plan. The decision approving this Forest Plan is documented in the ROD. The ROD also states the reasons for the decision.</p> <p>Activities and projects will be planned and implemented to carry out the direction in the Forest Plan. These local projects will be "tiered to" the accompanying Final EIS as provided for in 40 CFR 1502.28. The local project environmental analysis will use the data and evaluations in the Forest Plan and Final EIS as its basis.</p>
Forest Plan Implementation	<p>Implementation is the on-the-ground application of the Forest Plan management direction. This is achieved through an integrated resource management approach. All of the multiple uses are addressed. Interdisciplinary teamwork and working with the publics are vital parts of implementation.</p>
<u>Administrative Review and Appeal Rights</u>	<p>The Regional Forester used the Final EIS in making the decision to approve the Plan. This decision has been documented in the Record of Decision which is available to the public. The Record of Decision also states the reasons for the decision. The Record of Decision is subject to administrative review (appeal) in accordance with the provisions of 36 CFR 211.18 (Federal Register, Volume 48, No. 63, March 31, 1983, pages 13420 through 13426).</p>
<u>Extent of Final Forest Plan Action</u>	<p>If any particular provision of the Forest Plan or its application becomes invalid, the remainder of the Plan and its application will not be affected.</p>

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# Chapter I

## Introduction



# Chapter I

## Introduction

Chapter I summarizes the purpose of the Forest Plan, how it is organized, and its relationship to other plans and documents.

## Purpose of the Forest Plan

This National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) guides all natural resource management practices and establishes management standards and guidelines for the Ottawa National Forest. The Forest Plan direction (management area prescriptions, standards and guidelines, and practices) provides for the use and protection of the Forest's resources while fulfilling legislative requirements and responding to public issues, management concerns, and opportunities for use of the Forest. To accomplish this purpose, the Forest Plan:

- Establishes management direction in terms of goals and objectives for the Forest for the next 10 to 15 years.
- Specifies standards, guidelines, and approximate timing and location of the management practices needed to achieve the Forest Plan's goals and objectives.
- Establishes monitoring and evaluation requirements needed to ensure that the Plan's direction is carried out and to determine how well outputs and effects were predicted.
- Will be reviewed every 10 to 15 years and updated as necessary.

The Forest Plan was prepared within the overall framework established by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (RPA), as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (NFMA). To carry out the provisions of these laws, the Secretary of Agriculture issued federal regulations that govern National Forest System planning (36 CFR Part 219). Forest planning must also comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and the federal regulations (40 CFR Part 1500) issued by the President's Council on Environmental Quality to carry out the provisions of NEPA.

The preferred alternative, as identified in the accompanying Final EIS, serves as the basis for the Forest Plan.

The Final EIS prepared for the Forest Plan is used in environmental analysis through tiering (40 CFR 1502.20 and 1508.28). Tiering means that environmental analyses and decision documents prepared for projects arising from the Plan will refer to the Final EIS, Forest Plan, and associated documents rather than repeat information. Environmental analyses for specific projects are to concentrate on issues unique to the project.

The actual rate of implementation of this proposed Forest Plan and resulting production of its projected goods and services depends on the annual United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service budgeting process. However, budget requests will be made with the intent of fulfilling the proposed Forest Plan's goals and objectives.

## Overview of the Planning Process

The following summarizes the steps used to prepare the Forest Plan for the Ottawa National Forest.

- Resource-related public issues, management concerns, and resource opportunities were identified and combined into management problems. These management problems guided the development of the Forest Plan by focusing the analysis on the key problems raised by the public and/or Forest Service management.
- The management situation was analyzed to determine the Forest's ability to supply goods and services needed to address the management problems. Current and future demand for Forest outputs and uses was estimated.
- The results of the above steps were analyzed to develop alternative plans for integrated management of all forest resources. Each alternative was designed to take advantage of opportunities for using and developing forest resources and to address public issues and Forest Service management concerns.
- Each alternative provided management direction for the Forest. These alternatives were evaluated and the preferred alternative plan identified. The Final EIS documents the analysis and decision-making process.

## Organization of the Forest Plan

The Forest Plan contains direction for achieving a desired condition for the Forest. The Forest Plan consists of this document, a separate map folder, Final EIS, and a Record of Decision. The map folder includes the map showing where management prescriptions will be applied (management area map).

This document has six chapters.

Chapter I introduces the general purpose of the Forest Plan and the Plan's structure. It describes how the Plan relates to other Forest Service plans and documents.

Chapter II briefly outlines the present condition of the Forest resources, summarizes the Forest management problems, and presents an assessment of current outputs, potential supply, and current and expected demand for various goods and services.

Chapter III describes the Plan's goals, objectives, and responses to major issues and concerns. It discusses the opportunities to respond to the management problems, the Forest Plan's management direction in response to the problems, the Forest's research needs and data and information needs including administrative studies.

Chapter IV describes management direction in two parts. First, it discusses the Forestwide goals, objectives, and resource program direction relative to specific Forestwide management problems. The second part defines management area direction through management prescriptions, specific standards and guidelines, a schedule of practices, and a schedule of outputs and effects.

Chapter V explains how the management direction will be implemented. Forestwide monitoring and evaluation requirements are identified and conditions for Forest Plan amendments and revisions listed.

Chapter VI is appendices that contain additional information and data to support the Forest Plan direction. They contain information such as a land suitability summary, allowable sale quantity, and long-term sustained yield capacity.

Additional information is incorporated by reference. Most of this information is available in the Ottawa National Forest's planning records. These records are available for review at the Forest Supervisor's Office in Ironwood, Michigan.

## **Relationship of Forest Plan to Other Documents**

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### **Accompanying Environmental Impact Statement**

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The Forest Plan is based on the preferred alternative identified in the accompanying Final EIS. The planning process and analysis used in developing the preferred and other alternatives are described or referenced in the Final EIS.

Practices and projects will be planned and implemented to carry out the direction in this Forest Plan. Local projects will be "tiered" to the accompanying Final EIS as provided in 40 CFR 1502.20. The local environmental analysis of a project will be based on data and evaluations in the Forest Plan, Final EIS, local issues, concerns, and opportunities, as well as additional site-specific information for each project as needed.

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### **Regional Guide**

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The Regional Guide links the Forest Plan to the RPA assessment and program. The Regional Guide channels management direction from the national to the local level and channels information from the local to the national level. The Regional Guide:

- Sets Regional standards and guidelines for various management practices.
- Provides direction for developing Forest Plans, including the range of alternatives to be considered. Planning direction essentially defers the final decision on an issue to the individual Forest, within limits set by the Region.
- Displays the Eastern Region's portion of the RPA program and distributes tentative resource targets to the Forest.
- Describes the general coordination of National Forest System, State and Private Forestry, and Research programs.

The Regional Guide is based primarily on 1980 data. The Forest Plan will continually provide updated data for use in future Regional Guide revisions.

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#### Other Plans and Documents

**Superseded Plans and Documents** This Forest Plan will supersede the following functional plans and documents after the Regional Forester signs a Record of Decision:

- Current Ottawa National Forest timber management plan.
- Current Ottawa National Forest fisheries management plan.
- Ottawa National Forest portion of the wildlife and fish state comprehensive plan (Sikes Act).
- Draft Ottawa National Forest recreation management plan.
- Ottawa National Forest off-road vehicle management plan.
- Sylvania Recreation Area Management Plan, December 1968.
- Cyrus H. McCormick Experimental Forest Plan.

**Valid Plans, Programs, and Documents**

The following plans will require little or no modification to be consistent with the Forest Plan. They will remain in effect after the plan approval and will be updated as required by legislation or as needed.

- North Country National Scenic Trail Comprehensive Management Plan, September 1982.
- Bergland Hill Ski Complex Environmental Impact Statement, February 1973.
- Ottawa National Forest oil and gas lease consent environmental assessment, April 1985.
- Ottawa National Forest hard rock lease consent environmental assessment, September 1986.
- Protection plans such as law enforcement plans, Forest Supervisor closures, and fire management programs.
- Operation and Maintenance (O&M) plans such as recreation O&M plans, building O&M plans, and road and trail maintenance plans.
- Existing environmental analysis and assessment documents.

The following programs and support information are intended to implement the goals and objectives of the Forest Plan.

- Administrative programs such as budgets, annual program of work and contracting program.
- Protection programs such as law enforcement, road closures, fire management and prevention, and endangered and threatened species management.
- Construction, operation, and maintenance programs such as Visitor Center operation and maintenance; recreation area reconstruction, operation, and maintenance; facilities construction and maintenance; trail construction and maintenance; road reconstruction/construction and maintenance; and bridge and major culvert construction and maintenance.
- Programs such as Ecological Classification System, cultural resource evaluation and assessment, fisheries management, wildlife management, minerals management, property boundary location, land adjustment program, Wild/Scenic Inventory Rivers program, and research natural areas.

Utilizing these programs along with other resource data and information, a management area implementation schedule and design of specific management area projects will be completed for the first time period (first 10 years following approval of the final plan). These documents will become appendices to this Plan and complete the Forest Plan.

## **Forest Location**

The Ottawa National Forest is located at the extreme western end of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Its 928,441 acres lie in portions of Gogebic, Ontonagon, Iron, Houghton, Baraga, and Marquette counties.

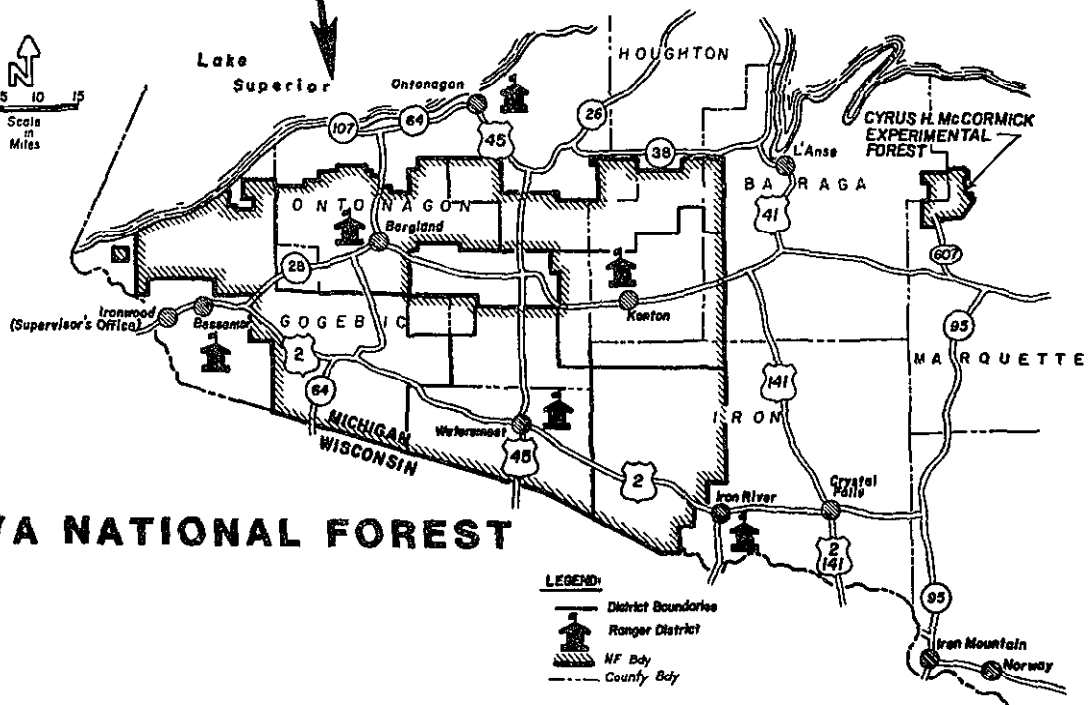
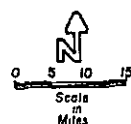
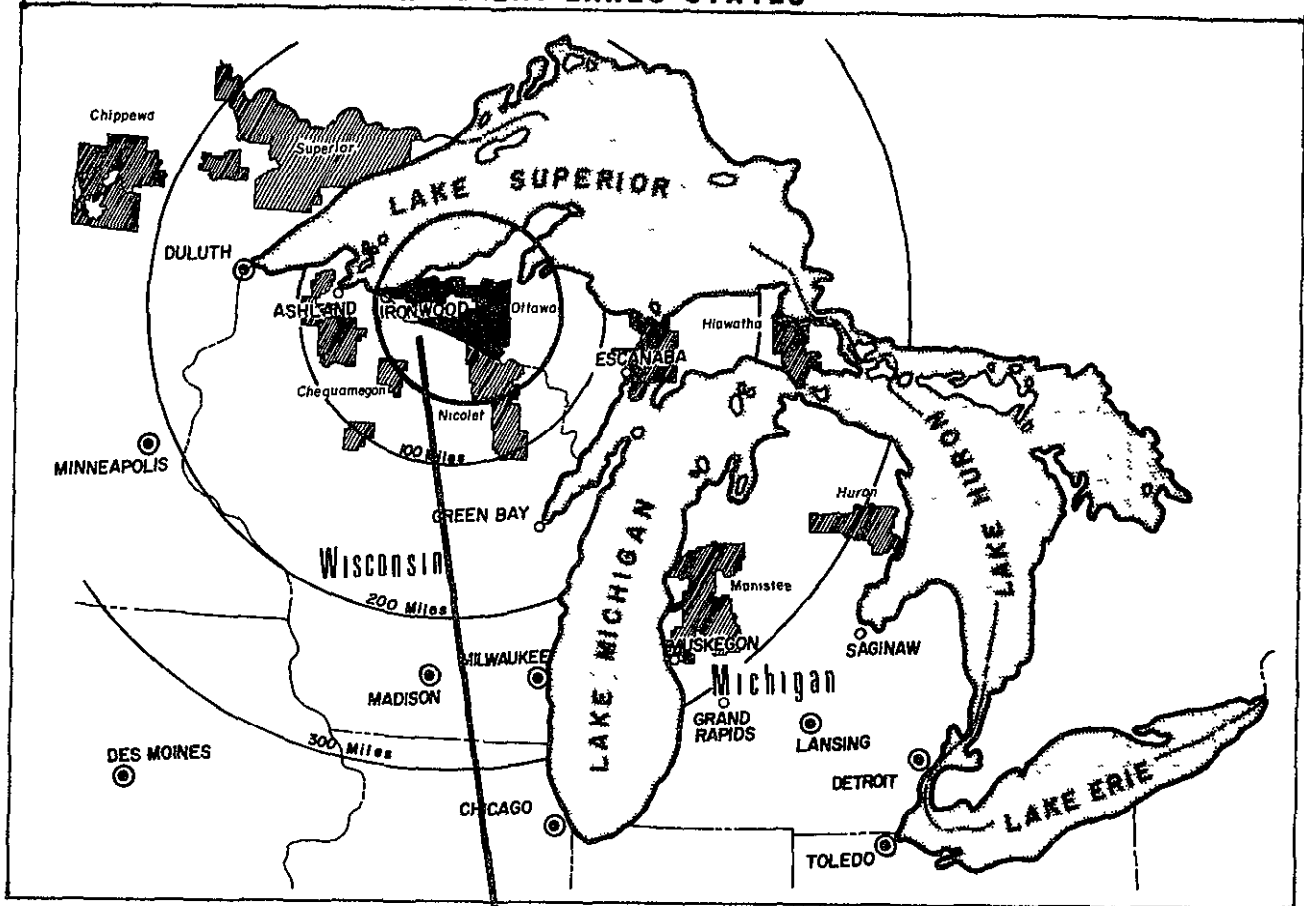
The Forest is within a day's drive of such cities as Detroit, Green Bay, Milwaukee, Madison, Chicago, and St. Paul-Minneapolis. It borders Lake Superior on the north and Wisconsin, including the Nicolet National Forest, on the south.

Principal access routes to the Ottawa National Forest are US Highways 45 and 51 from the south, US Highway 2 from the east and west, and Michigan State Highway 28 from the east. Figure 1.1 shows the vicinity of the Forest.

**FIGURE 1.1**

# **OTTAWA NATIONAL FOREST VICINITY MAP**

## **NATIONAL FORESTS IN THE GREAT LAKES STATES**



## **OTTAWA NATIONAL FOREST**